



**TOWN OF TAOS
INFORMATIONAL MEETING
FRIDAY, MAY 30TH, 8:30 AM**

There will be an informational meeting for businesses on or near the Plaza and other interested persons with regards to the Town's plan to relocate the Taos Farmer's Market to the Plaza during summer construction on Town Hall Drive, as well as other activities being considered by the Town to draw more locals and tourists to the Plaza.

The Farmer's Market will be held on Saturdays during the summer from 8am to 1pm, with the first market to be held this Saturday, May 31st.

The Plaza will be closed on 3 sides (east, west and south) from 7 am to 1:30 pm to accommodate pedestrian activity associated with the event, but through traffic will continue throughout the event on the north side of the Plaza from the Kit Carson and Paseo intersection on the east, through the Plaza going west onto Placitas and parking will still be available on the north side of the Plaza along that route.

Parking will be free in the Plaza, John Dunn and Guadalupe lots from 7 am to 1 pm on Saturday's during the Farmer's Markets and increased directional signage as to public parking will be installed in the coming weeks.

By agreement, the market will be selling only food (vegetables, plants, home baked goods, etc.) but no merchandise that would compete with the existing businesses on the Plaza.

There will be music each week and a number of additional activities, such as gardening, healthy cooking, pottery, bread and adobe making demonstrations, children's activities, and a petting zoo are being looked at as ways of increasing weekend foot traffic on the Plaza.

We are also looking for local businesses and experts that would be willing to do demonstrations or short instructional classes outdoors or indoors on the Plaza for such topics as art education and purchasing, antique collecting, learning about jewelry and gems, Native American pottery, gallery and historic district tours and other activities that might draw interest to our local retailers.

We are also exploring morning Tai Chi and/or Yoga sessions, business networking lunches and photography, history, writing, painting and sculpting classes on the Plaza for residents and tourists as well as visiting groups.

Lastly, we are working to increase the number and quality of live performances and exhibitions at the Old County Courthouse and are working to expand the success of the current Thursday night Taos Plaza Live to include additional evenings of traditional Northern New Mexican music and dancing exhibitions, such as Rancheros, Mariachi and Flamenco, as well as working with our regional Pueblos to bring traditional and contemporary Native American music and dancing to the Plaza to celebrate our rich heritage and attract locals and tourists alike.

The hope is that, like in many other cities, the Farmer's Market, arts exhibitions, traditional music and dancing and other activities will bring increased foot traffic will encourage people to visit and stay longer in our downtown and contribute to a resulting increase in retail sales to the Plaza and surrounding area.

The meeting on Thursday will be the first of many in which we want to let you know what we are trying to do, to get your input into how to better serve both the downtown businesses and greater community and to build a partnership of working together to improve the appearance, use, economy and festivity of the historic Plaza and downtown.

Please attend or check our website or call me so that we can meet and answer your questions and hear your ideas and concerns.

Sincerely,

Rick Bellis

Town Manager

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DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 30th, 2014

TIME: 8:30AM TO 9:00AM

PLACE: ON THE PLAZA, IN FRONT OF THE GAZEBO

(In case of rain, the meeting will be in the 2nd floor Mural Room of the Old County Courthouse)